

City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

Annual Report
March 2009-February 2010



Dear Mayor Meeker and City Councilors-

The City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORHCAB) is excited to present the annual report for the period of March 1, 2009- February 28, 2010.

Background

On September 2, 2008, the Raleigh City Council accepted the *Strategic Plan for the Inventory, Conservation, and Management of Raleigh's Historic Cemeteries* prepared by the Chicora Foundation, Inc. and authorized the establishment of a stakeholder group to work collaboratively with Parks and Recreation Staff in the implementation of the plan. The Board was approved by Council in January 2009 and began meeting monthly starting March 2009.

The Board reviewed current operations of the Cemeteries Division, developed its bylaws, elected officers and reviewed

recommended action items from the Chicora Report

In May 2009, the Board toured all 3 cemeteries to familiarize members with identified needs. By late summer 2009, the Board finalized its 2009-2010 Work Plan consisting of the following goals and tasks. A status of each goal is provided below.

Goal #1: To educate CORHCAB Board Members and cemetery maintenance staff on standards of preservation for historic cemeteries.

Task 1: The Board will partake in free training classes, offered by the State's Historic Preservation Office, pertaining to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation. This training will aid in the development of needed policies and maintenance manuals.

STATUS: Members of the Board have met with staff of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) to discuss training needs pertaining to the Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. The guidelines are intended to provide technical advice about archeological and historic preservation activities and methods. NCSHPO staff has offered to develop a "cemetery-focused" training program and train Board Members and City staff at no cost. Currently, this training is scheduled to be held June 2010.

Goal #2: To develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for the operation, use, and maintenance of the City's cemetery properties.

Task 1: Apply for the Certified Local Government 50% matching grant to develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for the City's cemeteries.

STATUS: Initially it was believed that the Certified Local Government grant (also known as the 2010 Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grant) would be a suitable funding source to develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual. Mr. Dan Becker (with the City's Historic Districts Commission) met with the Board and indicated that it would not be a suitable match, but the Board agreed to partner with the Commission to apply for the grant to update the Commission's design guidelines. A section of the guidelines will be dedicated to archeology and cemetery design. Staff received recent notice that the Historic Districts Commission was awarded the grant.

The Board recognized the need to update the City's existing Cemeteries Code which dictates prohibited and permissible uses and activities. The Board reviewed cemetery code from cemeteries in Atlanta, GA,

Boston, MA, and Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Greensboro, Salisbury and Winston-Salem, NC. Additionally, the Board reviewed the City of Atlanta's municipal codes pertaining to Parks and Cemeteries. Once code revisions are adopted by Council and codified, the Board will develop the Policy and Maintenance Manual which is needed for a successful Cemeteries program. Code revisions are presently under review by the Board.



Goal #3: To preserve and protect unsecured items located in City Cemetery.

Task 1: The Board will procure a storage container for the containment of unsecured site items (stones, markers, etc) to be sited behind the adjacent City of Raleigh Fire Station #3.

Task 2: The Board will develop a protocol for the collection, inventory, and storage of unsecured items.

Task 3: The Board will develop a partnership with the historic preservation programs at local universities to begin inventorying the cemetery items.

Task 4: The Board will research costs associated with needed site amenities for the City's cemetery properties.

Task 5: The Board will authorize the installation of basic site amenities at City cemetery (bollards, lockable gates, etc) which will aid in site preservation efforts.



STATUS: Raleigh City Cemetery Preservation, Inc. (RCCP) has developed a great partnership with the Peace College Department of Anthropology to inventory existing stones and markers at City Cemetery. To help minimize theft of existing loose items, the Board agreed to rent a Mobile-Mini storage unit, which is located behind Fire Station #3 adjacent to City Cemetery. The Board also approved a conceptual site furnishings plan for City Cemetery which incorporates bollards to restrict vehicular access. It is hoped that through a partnership with the Fire Department and/or a Cemeteries Volunteer Watch program, the iron gates will be closed afterhours to further limit undesirable activities.



Goal #4: To undertake initial inventory and stabilization efforts within City Cemetery.

Task 1: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with basic stabilization of the Peace family plot. Funds permitting, commence with the restoration efforts.

Task 2: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with a stone-by-stone inventory.

Task 3: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with an inspection of the mausoleums located at City Cemetery.

Task 4: The Board will to identify any unstable and/or unsafe situations located with City Cemetery and prioritize them for repairs.

STATUS: RCCP has received a quote for \$63,000 for restoration of the Peace Family Plot. Phase I of the project, which will secure, stabilize, and restore four family graves and stone fragments will cost \$15,000. The Board agreed to purchase and install a temporary sign explaining the restoration efforts currently underway. It has reviewed the requirements of the stone-by-stone inventory and believes that this project can undertaken by trained volunteers working closely with Dean Ruedrich, a specialist in cemetery stone repair and restoration. The Board has received a quote from Mr. Ruedrich in the amount of \$13,650 for high priority stabilization issues at City Cemetery and an assessment of the iron foundry gate surrounding the cemetery. This work will begin in July 2010. Stabilization of the cemetery's mausoleum may be restricted to external efforts only since entering the mausoleum would require permits from the Wake County Health Department.



Goal #5: To research and develop a Volunteer Cemetery Watch program for neighborhoods surround the City's cemeteries.

Task 1: The Board will work with the Parks and Recreation Volunteer Services Coordinator to develop this program which shall include a gate opening/closing program.

STATUS: Cindy Trumbower is working with the neighbors surrounding City Cemetery, Mt. Hope Cemetery, and O'Rorke Catholic Cemetery to develop a "Cemetery Watch" program whereby neighbors would assist City police with patrolling and promptly report undesirable activities.

Goal#6: To educate the general public about changes to cemetery access and planned restoration efforts within City Cemetery.

Task 1: The Board will work with the Parks and Recreation Marketing Administrator, to disseminate PSA's as necessary.

Status: This task will occur in the latter part of 2010 as the Cemetery Code is updated and the public is notified.



Other Work Items

1. O'Rorke Catholic Cemetery turf amendments- In fall 2009, basic turf amendments were applied to improve the aesthetics of this site.
2. O'Rorke Catholic Cemetery fencing replacement- A cyclone fence currently surrounds this site. Research is underway to determine the original fencing type with the goal of replacing the existing fencing in FY11.
3. Local Designation of O'Rorke Catholic Cemetery- RCCP staff and Ruth Little have completed the application for Local Designation of O'Rorke Catholic Cemetery as a Local Historic Property. The Parks and Recreation Department submitted the application to the Historic Districts Commission for their review.

Respectfully submitted by the City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board
June 1, 2010